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TAGS: [KTIP](#) [KCRM](#) [PHUM](#) [KWMN](#) [SMIG](#) [KFRD](#) [PREF](#) [ELAB](#) [TU](#)
SUBJECT: TURKEY: NEW NATIONAL PROJECT TO COMBAT TIP

REF: A. ANKARA 273
[1](#)B. 08 ANKARA 1956

[1](#)1. (SBU) MFA Department Head for Migration and Asylum Berlan Alan told us December 10 his ministry is spearheading a multi-agency effort to create a comprehensive plan for addressing trafficking in persons (TIP) in Turkey. The plan will propose legislation that, if approved, would empower the Ministry of Finance to allocate money to individual ministries or NGOs that would take responsibility for some aspect of TIP.

[1](#)2. (SBU) Alan told us the Prime Ministry approved the second national action plan against TIP in June, which had been awaiting approval for some time. The new action plan will complement an ongoing EU project aimed at developing sustainability in the fight against trafficking. As part of the new action plan and to prepare for the end of funding from the EU project, the MFA is leading a new "national project." This project comprises representatives from the Ministries of Interior, Justice, and Labor, as well as from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and NGOs. The goal of the project is to develop a comprehensive plan to address trafficking in persons. The plan will identify a ministry or NGO that can be designated as responsible for an aspect of combating TIP. The MFA hopes to then develop legislation to secure GOT funding for each responsible entity. The MFA goal is to have the draft plan ready in March to present to the DPT (State Planning Organization.) In May, the MFA hopes to have the draft legislation approved by the DPT and ready for consideration by parliament.

[1](#)3. (SBU) Alan told us he expects some difficulty with the Ministry of Finance (MoF), and is trying to proactively resolve potential problems. He said in the past his office submitted requests for funding to the MoF, which rejected them without explanation. Alan invited the MoF to participate in the meetings in order to help guide them on proper preparation of TIP funding legislation, but they have not yet accepted. He also foresees a potential funding shortage, particularly for IOM and some of the NGOs in the interim period, as the legislation will not be approved for funding this year (as Turkey's budget deliberations end December 31.) The MFA will work with IOM and the NGOs to apply to the Prime Ministry for TIP shelter funding and to outside sources for other funding until the legislation is approved.

[1](#)4. (SBU) COMMENT: Turkey faces a continual struggle with sustained funding for TIP. This proposed plan, if enacted, would solve much of the funding issues faced by the GOT, IOM, and NGOs, particularly for shelters that currently have no dedicated funding and face uncertain futures.
Silliman

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